

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

December 2022



P&SC Committee invites Friends to ‘share some comfort’



On behalf of the DMVF Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Patty Wengert says, “Peace to All” and encourages Friends to consider donations to help keep community neighbors warm this winter.

DMVF members and attendees are invited “to share our faith and comfort with our community” this season. The DMVF Peace and Social Concerns Committee is collecting mittens and socks for Creative Visions, and warm winter coats and sweatshirts (new or gently used), gloves, socks and throw blankets for the Catholic Worker.

You can donate in the boxes provided in the entry hall at the Meeting House. Deadline to be announced. Contact Patty Wengert with questions, at pkwengert@yahoo.com.

DMVF Clerk’s message after mass shooting at Club Q, Colorado Springs

Des Moines Valley Friends stand in loving embrace of LGBTQ+ Friends in our meeting, the broader community and around the world, and with those who love them. Without condoning violence, we hold its perpetrators, as we do our Friends, in the Light.

More from Quakers: [Statement from American Friends Service Committee](#): Solidarity with queer and trans people in the face of violence.

A Quaker Minute: Quakers & Holidays

Traditionally Quakers do not celebrate Christian festivals such as Easter and Christmas.

Friends strive to live their faith every day. They believe the events celebrated at such festivals (e.g. resurrection and incarnation of Jesus) should be kept in mind throughout the year. Sharing and giving and loving other people is not a seasonal thing.

Friends are free to follow their own conscience in how they observe Christmas. Many Quaker families and local meetings mark the holidays as secular festivals in the spirit of their local communities.

-- One in a series on Quaker history and practice, contributed by Pam Blackburn

Why does DMVF need a second Zoom account?

by Katie Jacoby

In March 2020, the country shut down and we stopped gathering in-person for meeting for worship. I don’t recall the exact timeline of when we began to meet via videoconferencing, as my perception of time has warped and bent in strange ways since the “Before Times.” But Zoom, the Chinese-based videoconferencing behemoth that

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DMVF Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

November 13, 2022

Clerk: Carol Spaulding-Kruse

Recording Clerk: Claire
Cumbie-Drake

Attending: Carol Spaulding-
Kruse, Brock Wommack, Kari
Noble, Andrea Holveck, Jack
Holveck, Kelsea Gillespie, Fred
Nelson, Gordon Bivens, Dick
Douglas, Jim Dietz-Kilen,
Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Charlie
Brown, David Drake, Claire
Cumbie-Drake, Virginia Smith,
Billie Wade

The Meeting opened with a
moment of silence.

The Clerk shared a quotation by
Grace Lee Boggs:

*“Building community is to the collective
as spiritual practice is to the
individual.”*

Announcements:

1. Virginia Smith has new
Motto calendars
2. Charlie Brown has issued a
new hosting list through
January. The Clerk requested
that Friends consider if they
will be attending Meeting in
person and would be willing
to host.
3. Carol Spaulding-Kruse is
seeking suggestions for 2023
Second Hour topics and
friends who are willing to
share their own Journey to
Friends.
4. The Clerk provided an update
on Edith Munro. Virginia is
caring for Gracie, Edith’s cat.
Cris Douglas suggests a pet-
care fund in lieu of
reimbursing her for cat food
and other provisions.

5. The Clerk provided updates
on Marion Love and Chuck
Day.

Minutes from October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business:

Minute: The Meeting approved
the Minutes, with appreciation to
the Recording Clerk, and with
one correction. Catherine Dietz-
Kilen and Jim Dietz-Kilen were
in attendance at the October
Meeting but were not listed in the
Minutes.

Ministry & Council

Committee members Gordon
Bivens, Peter Clay, Jim Dietz-
Kilen, Deborah Fisch and Andrea
Holveck gathered in silence at
our appointed monthly meeting
time.

We shared updates/concerns
regarding several Friends and
discussed how (either members
of the committee or others in
Meeting) might be able to
provide help or support.

We discussed having a Day of
Remembrance again this year,
sometime in January. Dorothy
Lifka kindly offered to help
organize this. There was
consensus in support of holding a
Day of Remembrance, and Jim
offered to let Dorothy know that
the committee wishes to
gratefully accept her offer.

We picked back up a
discussion begun several months
ago about the idea of having
designated “Meeting for
Healing” times. This has been
discussed as either a time when
Friends are invited to set some
time aside at home to hold each
other in the Light or a time when
Friends can gather in the
Meetinghouse and/or via zoom
for focused worship with

attention to mutual healing. We
did not reach clarity on a way
forward with this idea, and so we
set aside time for future
discussion, to allow time for
other items on the day’s
agenda. Other members/attenders
who have thoughts about this
idea are asked to share them with
any member of the committee.

The topic of possible outreach
to people who have not been
attending Meeting was also lifted
up. There was concern expressed
that a number of folks who chose
not to attend via zoom may not
come back as we continue to
open up to in-person
worship. We did not have
sufficient time available to us for
this big topic to be adequately
considered this day, so we
decided to also carry this topic
forward for future discussion.

Jim provided an update
regarding Leo Kooshan and
family. The multi-meeting,
multi-state, bi-national
committee had their monthly
meeting via zoom on the evening
of 2 November. Leo continues to
work part-time as an IT lab
assistant for his college in
Ottawa. He is also trying to
secure a winter internship as part
of his college program. Leo’s
brother Hassan has started a
cadet program offered by the
Canadian military for students
who are interested in learning
how to fly. Some other families
from their home province in
Afghanistan (Daykundi) have
moved to Islamabad, providing
some familiar connections for the
family. The refugee application
process for Leo/Hassan’s family
is nearly complete and
application will likely be filed by
the time folks read this

report. Ottawa Meeting has prepared a projected budget for continuing to support the family for the first year after they arrive in Canada. OM has an endowment fund dedicated to support of refugees, established through a bequest. This is providing a significant amount of what is needed. Penn Valley also provides monthly support. With these funds and what members of DMVF and other Meetings have contributed, it looks at this time as if there will be a likely shortfall of around \$7,000. Appeals for additional funds to close that gap will be coming. Peter raised the question of whether it would be appropriate for him, as a member of Peace & Social Concerns Committee, to ask for consideration of a gift from that committee's budget. The consensus of our committee was that such a suggestion from Peter would be appropriate.

Minute: The Meeting accepted the report, with thanks to the committee for their work.

Finance & Treasurer:

There was no report from the Finance Committee this month.

The Treasurer reviewed the financial statement, noting that there is nothing out of the ordinary about the financial report this month. The Treasurer noted that there were significant donations for the month.

Minute: The Meeting received and accepted the Treasurer's review of the financial statement.

Hospitality: (no written report)

The Clerk reported that the responses to whether we should have a Thanksgiving meal

together suggests that it would be better to wait until a later time, and perhaps a Christmas gathering instead. The suggested date was Dec. 18.

The Business Meeting discussed confusion regarding whether the 5th Sunday social was a Peace and Social Concern's soup lunch, with donations requested, or purely a social event. The hospitality committee clarified that it was intended to be a social event. If Peace and Social concerns would like to collect donations, they will put out a basket for donations.

There was discussion about whether the Meeting wants to see a return of the 3rd first day Peace and Social Concerns lunch and committee meetings.

Minute: The Business Meeting decided to forego a Thanksgiving meal and to have a social event on Dec. 18 instead. The Meeting will take up the question of whether to return to the 3rd first day soup lunches at the December Business Meeting.

Outreach Committee:

DMVF Outreach Committee (Katie Jacoby, Ann Robinson, Billie Wade) met on 10-25-22 with Hospitality Committee members (Charlie Brown and Andrea Holveck) to discuss merging our two committees.

Our conclusion: At this time, it doesn't seem like there is enough overlap in duties, nor that merging the two committees would really lighten the load of any one person or result in fewer people needed to fill the responsibilities of the two committees. We agreed there are areas where we can coordinate

efforts (possibly along with Peace & Social Concerns Committee), for instance planning a group service project or inviting community members to a film or documentary showing followed by an action plan.

We discussed ways to build bonds with the tenants of Friends House, while also considering if they actually want to do so. For a start we agreed that we would invite them to the next fifth Sunday soup dinner and try that. And possibly communicate with the house managers to co-host another event/activity, like a coffee/bagel meet-and-greet that could be held during the week. We will prepare a formal description of the outreach committee for consideration by the meeting.

We plan to reach out to P&SC to consider one-time or short-term projects we could pursue as a group. Possibly even something for/before the holidays, like a food or coat/mitten drive. For now, we are thinking that feasible projects would likely be short-term endeavors as opposed to long-term commitments. We will reach out and invite them to attend our next meeting, on Nov. 29, or send ideas for possible projects through a representative.

We all long for a return to normalcy in our gatherings. Still, we wonder how many folks will want to gather for a Thanksgiving dinner on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 7:00 p.m., by Zoom, and then we plan to skip meeting in December.

Minute: The Meeting accepted the report with gratitude to the Committee for their work. The committee continues to work on building bonds with tenants of Friends House. Friends suggested that the Outreach committee extend an invitation to tenants of Friends House to join us for the 5th social, and that Friends welcome them warmly. Friends suggested that the Outreach committee's invitation include a note expressing our appreciation for their work, and perhaps a box of chocolates to invite them to the 5th Sunday social event, with a list of the dates.

Library: No written report. The Clerk expressed appreciation for the work of the Library Committee.

Peace & Social Concerns: No written report

Billie reported to the Business Meeting that the P&SC committee met on November 1, 2022, with Patty, Peter, Jack, and Billie in attendance.

Committee is collecting mittens and socks for Creative Visions, and warm winter coats for Catholic Worker.

The Committee will be sending out a survey to gather feedback on what donations the committee should be making to other organizations.

Minute: The Meeting accepted Billie's verbal report with thanks to the committee.

The Clerk reported that she was invited and attended the Ruth Harbor gala fundraiser. She raised the question of whether P&SC should make a contribution to the organization. The Clerk will forward information about the

organization for the Meeting to consider.

Building & Grounds: No report
The Meeting acknowledged with great appreciation that Susan Meyers and Charlie Brown donated the stove, microwave, and dishwasher for the Meeting House kitchen, all of which Charlie installed

Friendly Line:

The Clerk noted appreciation for Ann Robinson, Billie Wade, and Virginia Smith for their work on the Friendly Line. Next deadline is November 30.

Technology:

The Meeting currently has a Zoom Pro account with one user license. The Meeting has two recurring meetings: Meeting for Worship/Business and Ministry & Counsel. In general, the scheduled times for these meetings do not overlap. Religious Education also uses Zoom. The time frame for this meeting does overlap with Meeting for Worship.

Therefore, even though it is a separate link, Religious Ed is often unable to connect because another meeting is already in session. In addition, if M&C goes over its scheduled time, that would (likely) affect the ability to start the Meeting for Worship. Or it would kick M&C off.

Prior to adding the Religious Ed meeting to the DMV account we were using different people's private Zoom accounts. Currently we pay \$149.00 a year for the Zoom account. That was a promo rate and it might be a little higher next year. If we add a second user license it should resolve the above issues. It would

cost an additional \$149.00 a year.

If we add a second user license, we could move Religious Ed and M&C to that second license as those meetings are unlikely to ever overlap. The second license could also be used to create meetings for other committees or activities. The first license would be dedicated to Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Worship for Business, although we could add other meetings if needed – as long as the times wouldn't overlap.

Minute: The Meeting accepted the Report. The Technology Committee will meet with the Finance Committee to work on a solution to the matter of the Meeting House phone.

The Meeting approved the recommendation to add a second user license for Zoom so that one license is available for Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business, and one for Religious Education, M&C, and other committees. The Meeting expressed its thanks to Katie Jacoby for her research and work on the technology matters. (Find more detail in Katie's article starting on page 1.)

Religious Education: No written report

The Clerk reported that she spoke with Dorothy Lifka about how things are going with the "2nd adults" roster. She reported there is a need for more help. The Meeting discussed the purpose of the 2nd adult. Thanks was expressed to the Friends who have stepped in to participate as a the "2nd adult" for first day school.

It would be helpful to have a brief description of guidelines for those adults who are sharing their spiritual journeys with the young friends.

Ad Hoc Committee on

Committees: No written report.

The Committee will be meeting later in November.

New/Other Business

Fred's request on behalf of Tuesday meditation group: *The Tuesday night Meditation group, which has used the Meetinghouse for many years, will likely fall short of the funds needed to cover the per-use \$25 fee in the near future. They are willing to pass along any donations received, but that amount will often fall short of the established fee. Fred Nelson requests that the Meeting consider whether the group can continue to use the Meetinghouse once their funds are depleted.*

Minute: The Meeting approved the Tuesday night meditation group continuing to use the Meeting House and to make contributions as they are able.

Hospitality and Finance Committees will take up the larger question of use of the Meeting House and what the policy should be for Friend's House tenants and other groups' use of the Meeting House.

Minute: Thank you is extended to Kelsea Gillespie for organizing the "One-on-One" meetings.



*To cherish peace and goodwill;
to be plenteous in mercy, is to
have the real spirit of Christmas.
-- Calvin Coolidge*

Zoom accounts

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is now a part of our cultural zeitgeist, enabled us to gather virtually during the pandemic.

In many ways, the isolation and uncertainty we were collectively experiencing led to strengthened bonds between us. During Joys and Concerns after meeting for worship we took the time to share more fully our fears, our joys and the mundane parts of our lives that we probably would have skipped over prior, as we had other stuff to do. It also allowed far-flung F/friends to join us on a regular basis. Now we are holding hybrid Meetings in person and via teleconferencing. There has been some confusion around our Zoom account and why we need two user licenses, and I'd like to hopefully clarify it for folks.

Firstly though - I am not an Information Technology person. I like computers and before robust antivirus software I tinkered with virus removal and whatnot. (My "least-favorite virus" crashed the browser as soon as you searched for how to remove Virus X.) As well, my 18 years as a legal assistant/secretary during periods of tech upgrades resulted in skills to navigate new technology. After working with Cheryl Sutton on developing the IYMC website, I gained the skills to develop our website, but that doesn't require coding, just a knowledge of a somewhat manageable platform called WordPress. I guess I'm saying, if one has an interest and a bit of time, one can get good enough at something, but it is

very possible one is still stumbling along.

But I digress. Zoom. We currently have a recurring meeting set up from 10:00-1:30 for worship and second hour. It is set so one can join at any time, which means if you join at 12 minutes to 10:00, you're on. Ministry and Counsel had been using an individual's account but now also has a recurring meeting on the Meeting's account. Religious Ed (RE) with the middle/high schoolers had been meeting via Zoom/in-person from 11:15 to 12:00 using an individual's account. It was determined that this was going to be a long-term part of Meeting and that RE should move to the meeting's account. RE's meeting had its own ID/link. However, because that time overlapped with meeting for worship the kids couldn't get on. Thus, it was proposed to purchase a second "user license," which the meeting approved. This enables RE to have a recurring meeting set up that won't conflict with meeting for worship. (To my frustration, it hasn't gone super smoothly, but I think I've figured out the issue(s) and hopefully it will work well going forward. Again, not an IT person.)

If you'd like to have your committee set up with a dedicated meeting link, let me know. It can be set to "join at any time" so if you need to call an extra meeting. It's easy-peasy. There are also other features, for instance, if one wants to break the main group into breakout groups. Let's save those for another time.

NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS

Jon Krieg recently returned from an eight-day journey to Siem Reap, Cambodia, for a gathering of amazing AFSC peace staff from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the US. He especially enjoyed interviewing staff who coordinate AFSC's work in Somalia. Other highlights included tours of the ancient temple of Angkor Wat and nearby floating villages. A disability rights group, Epic Arts, gave a powerful presentation on Cambodian culture and history.

Two long-time DMV Friends have early December birthdays. Though they are no longer able to attend Meeting, they would enjoy hearing from us. **Chuck Day** turned 96 on Dec. 3rd. His address is 5325 NW Burr Oak Dr., Johnston, IA 5013. **Mikel Johnson's** birthday is Dec. 4th. Write to her at Green Meadows Edencrest, 6750 Corporate Dr, Johnston, IA, 50131.

We send warm wishes for very happy special days to all who are celebrating December birthdays, including DMV Friends **Michael Luick-Thrams** and **Ezra Gillespie!** 😊

Peter Clay continues to wait for the rebuilding of his tornado-damaged home to be completed. A lot of progress has recently been made. There is a real possibility that he will be able to move back before the end of December. Peter hopes for help and support from Friends to get settled back in his home when the time comes.

Edith Munro is now at the Wesley Care Facility as she continues to recover from an accident. She can be reached on

her private line in the rehab facility: 515-271-6396.

Report from Alternative Gift Fair

by Patty Wengert, P&SC

A bravo to **Peter Clay** who worked all during the Iowa Peace Networks Alternative Gift Fair event and open house, Dec. 3.

This year's speaker was Dr. Maria Corona, executive director of the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). She shared an interesting quandary that the call to police, and judicial and legal punishment, do little to address families' complex issues. The people in conflict often have connections (especially through children) that do not end with a Court Ruling.

In addition, how does the legal process help the alleged abuser with healing and support services? Statistics show that the abuser may in fact be a former abused person who has never addressed the pain and harm they experienced. Many times that person may lose a job and then the breadwinner for that family results in economic insecurity for both parties, and the struggling family just spirals further behind economically.

No easy answers, but food for thought.

Hosting List for Upcoming First Days

Dec. 11 – Deborah & Katie
Dec. 18 – Dorothy Lifka
Dec. 25 – Claire & David
Jan. 1 – Jim & Catherine
Jan. 8 – Charlie Brown
Jan. 15 – Ann Robinson

Des Moines Valley Friends

Meeting for Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., at the Meeting House and by Zoom via email invitation from clerk, Carol Spaulding-Kruse, at

carol.spaulding@drake.edu

Meeting for Worship/Business: Regularly held on the second First Day each month at 1 p.m.

Coming Second Hours:

Holiday treats & carols – Dec. 18 (feel free to wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater!)

Query Discussions: First Sundays, 11:30 a.m. - Online & in person. Billie Wade, facilitator.

Child Care: Temporarily suspended at the Meeting House.

If you have a child who would like to be included in Zoom childcare or first day school for older youth, please contact Dorothy at dmlifka@yahoo.com.

Building & Grounds: Questions about the building or grounds of the Meetinghouse to Building & Grounds Committee Convenor, Dick Douglass, 515-864-1119.

Hospitality Committee: If you see a housekeeping problem that needs attention, please contact the Hospitality Committee convenor Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

Friendly Line: Send info for next Friendly Line to Ann at anny@mediacombb.net by Friday, Dec. 30, 2022.

Find us online at:

www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org

Be sure and check out the website's new calendar!

Check out our Facebook group for members/attenders. To be added, email Jan Falb, at jfalb0326@yahoo.com